



PRESS RELEASE

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COIN DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD

PHOENIX – Coin broker Leon Nahat, DOB 6/25/51, of Glendale, Ariz. pleaded guilty today to one count of Mail Fraud in federal district court in Phoenix.

Nahat convinced some of his clients to send them their coin collections which he later liquidated and kept the funds for himself. Nahat had sold the coins previously to these investors while he was employed by Swiss America Trading Corporation and thereafter Nationwide Financial, both coin dealers, for over \$600,000. Later, when Nahat started his own coin business, Frontier Galleries, he told his former clients that he could upgrade their investment or obtain more money for their coins at a coin auction. Nahat then sold the coins at various coin dealers in Arizona and New Mexico and used the money for personal expenses such as rent and artwork.

A conviction for these charges carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. Sentencing is set before Judge Roger Strand on January 11, 2005 in Phoenix.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI. The prosecution is being handled by Ashley Adams-Feldman, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-0119
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